

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

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AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY MONEVIDEO
AMCONSUL BELEM
AMCONSUL PORTO ALEGRE
AMCONSUL RECIFE
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SALVADOR
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR BR AR PA

SUBJ: PRESIDENT STROESSNER VISITS BRAZIL

REF: BRASILIA 2429

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT STROESSNER CONCLUDES HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO BRAZIL TODAY AND WILL REMAIN SEVERAL DAYS LONGER IN A PRIVATE CAPACITY. THE VISIT IS CONSIDERED A GREAT SUCCESS ON BOTH SIDES, PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF THE SIGNATURE OF THE ITAIPU HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT AGREEMENT. WHILE COMMITTED TO BUILDING THE PROJECT, IT APPEARS THAT BOTH COUNTRIES SEEK TO ASSAUGE ARGENTINA' S STRONG OPPOSITION BY LEAVING THE WAY OPEN FOR SOME FUTURE COMPROMISES.

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2. PARAGUAYAN PRESIDENT STROESSNER' S OFFICIAL VISIT

TERMINATES TODAY (APRIL 27) WHEN HE LEAVES BRASILIA FOR SEVERAL DAYS OF PRIVATE FISHING ON THE ARAGUAIA RIVER. THE HIGH POINT OF THE VISIT WAS THE SIGNING YESTERDAY OF THE ITAIPU HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT TO BE CONSTRUCTED BY BOTH COUNTRIES (DETAILS FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL). THE EXCEEDINGLY WARM HOSPITALITY AND RED CARPET TREATMENT SHOWN BY THE BRAZILIANS WERE RECIPROCATED BY THE EXTREME GRACIOUSNESS OF THEIR PARAGUAYAN GUESTS, ALL COMBINING TO MAKE THE VISIT A GREAT SUCCESS.

3. THE JOINT DECLARATION SIGNED BY PRESIDENTS MEDICI AND STROESSNER WAS UNEXCEPTIONAL. IT CONTAINS THE ROUTINE RHETORIC WITH REGARD TO PRINCIPLES OF EQUALITY OF STATES, NON- INTERVENTION, STRENGTHENING UN AND OAS, RESTRUCTURING INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE AND NEGOTIATING IN GATT IN FAVOR OF DEVELOPING NATIONS, ENCOURAGING LATIN AMERICAN COHESION AND LAFTA. IT EXPRESSES SATISFACTION OF THE FUNCTIONING OF THE RIVER PLATE BASIN TREATY AND THE SIGNATURE OF THE ITAIPU PROJECT AGREEMENT . IT ALSO NOTES THE WORK OF THE MIXED COMMISSION, SEVERAL JOINT CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, THE NEED FOR A DOUBLE TAXATION TREATY AND PARAGUAY' S CONTINUED USE OF BRAZILIAN POSTS AS " FREE ZONES." COPY OF DECLARATION TO BE POUCHED.

4. THE MEDIA CONTINUED TO GIVE HEAVY PLAY TO THE POSITIVE VISIT WHILE COMMENTING NEGATIVELY ON ARGENTINA' S ATTEMPTS TO MUDDY THE WATERS. HOWEVER, QUOTING BRAZILIAN FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCES, THE PRESS FURTHER STATES THAT BOTH BRAZIL AND PARAGUAY MIGHT CONSIDER MODIFYING THOSE ASPECTS OF THE ITAIPU PROJECT WHICH COULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO OTHER COUNTRIES (I. E., ARGENTINA).

5. A BRAZILIAN FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF THAT BRAZIL REALIZES THAT PARAGUAY IS SENSITIVE TO ARGENTINE PRESSURES (ESPECIALLY ECONOMIC) AND ATTEMPTING TO MAINTAIN MIDDLE GROUND. HOWEVER, BRAZIL' S TRUMP CARD IS THAT PARAGUAY FULLY AWARE THAT BRAZIL COULD CONSTRUCT POWER PROJECT FURTHER UP- RIVER AT SITE THOROUGHLY ON BRAZILIAN SOIL, BENEFITS OF WHICH PARAGUAY WOULD NOT SHARE. THUS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INDUCEMENT TO PARAGUAY TO CONTINUE AT ITAIPU IS SUFFICIENT TO BALANCE OFF ARGENTINA PRESSURES.

6. COMMENT: AS MENTIONED IN REFTTEL, BRAZILIANS ARE FULLY COMMITTED TO BUILDING THE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT ON THE PARANA RIVER. WHILE THEY ARE UNHAPPY AT ARGENTINA' S STRONG NEGATIVE REACTION TO THE ITAIPU PROJECT AGREEMENT, THE BRAZILIANS PRIVATELY ADMIT BRAZIL COULD HAVE MADE MORE PRELIMINARY INITIATIVES IN PREPARING ARGENTINE OFFICIALS

FOR ITS CONSUMMATION. THUS, IT APPEARS THE BRAZILIANS,
DOWNPLAYING THE SHARP ANTI- BRAZILIAN RHETORIC COMING
FROM ARGENTINA, WILL MAKE A CONSIDERABLE EFFORT TO PUT
THEIR BEST FOOT FORWARD IN DEALING WITH THEIR TRUCULENT
NEIGHBOR AND THE NEW GOVERNMENT SCHEDULED TO TAKE OFFICE
IN MAY.
ROUNTREE

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